

Dade Heritage Trust



f. Sands

Historic Preservation Center

190 Southeast 12th Terrace

Miami, Florida 33131 Mr. Seymour Gelber, Mayor, Miami Beach

Phone: 305 / 358-9572 and Commissioners

Fax: 305 / 358-1162

December 5, 1991

Dear Mayor Gelber and Commissioners:

1991-92

OFFICERS

President

Richard Groden

1st Vice President

Elizabeth L. Metcalf

2nd Vice President

Norah K. Schaefer

Treasurer

Samuel D. LaRoue

Secretary

Ruth Jacobs

TRUSTEES

Michael W. Beeman

Oscar M. Cespedes

Mahinda Cleary

Anna Ehler

Dorothy Fields

Michelle Fox

Sallye Jude

Dennis G. Kamen

Bryan F. Knudsen

Martin Laffey

Finlay B. Matheson

Larry Meyer

June Pirun

Bill Podway

Janice Pryor

Raul Rodriguez

Laurie Swedroe

Betsy Tilghman

Jody Verrengia

Mary Weber

Mitchell Wolfson

ADVISORS

Peter Andolina

Roger Carlton

Beth Dunlop

Joseph Z. Fleming

Howard Kleinberg

Keenan Knopke

Becky Roper Matkov

Thomas J. Matkov

Michael J. Maxwell

Aristides Millas

Eduardo Padron

Arva Moore Parks

Rafael Penalver, Jr.

R. Benjamin Reid

Jean D. Shehan

Rosario Vadia

Dora Valdes-Pauli

DHIT Revolving Fund

President

Donald D. Slesnick, II

Executive Director

Louise P. Yarbrough

As Executive Director of Dade Heritage Trust, a county-wide historic preservation organization, I am writing to express the concern of our Board of Trustees and membership regarding the future of the Art Deco District on Miami Beach.

On Tuesday, November 26, the New York Times featured a lengthy article on the wonders and success of Miami Beach's Art Deco District. How ironic that Miami residents learned from a Miami Herald article that same day that a National Register landmark on the "fringe" of the local district and within the National Register District, the Sands Hotel, was threatened with demolition.

Had the entire one square mile National Register District been protected by local designation, a review process would have been set in motion to evaluate the demolition request. More importantly, plans for new construction on the site would have been required from the property owner. With no such controls, the community faces yet another opportunity for parking space!

Miami Beach's world famous Art Deco District is possibly the most outstanding example of the positive impact historic preservation can have on a community. In a few short years, the Beach has been transformed from a depressed residential and commercial wasteland to a vibrant, exciting and economically robust community. The "impossible" was achieved with the vision, dedication and unwavering efforts of many citizens and community leaders.

The Miami Beach City Commission now has the opportunity to provide the continuing leadership to protect and insure Miami Beach's economic growth and prevent another such tragedy as the Senator, the New Yorker and now the Sands. By supporting the local historic designation of the entire National Register District you are protecting the structures which draw millions of tourists annually - a protection of the economic future of Miami Beach and the larger Dade County community.

We strongly support this designation and look to you to insure its passing.

Sincerely,

Louise Yarbrough
Louise Yarbrough
Executive Director